

NOTES | March 12, 2007

Monitoring Work Group

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan

The Monitoring Work Group scheduled 3 meetings in February and March to develop a proposed monitoring program for the Basin Advisory Panel to consider at its March 22, 2007, meeting. The work group reviewed and provided feedback on the monitoring program framework in preparation for presenting the proposed framework to the full Basin Advisory Panel for consideration. Work group members support the straw proposal that the monitoring framework represents.

The effort for the work group is to identify all the potential elements necessary for a successful monitoring program. Then, Panel members will have to work together to prioritize monitoring plan elements.

Ongoing Action Items

- Jay—Hear from USGS and DWR on confidentiality protocols. (SCWA attorneys have advised that the plan must comply with USGS and DWR protocols.)
- Tim Parker—Contact Paul Shepper at RCD about potential land subsidence data
- Tim Parker—Identify land subsidence data

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Current Monitoring

- Valley of the Moon also has 3 monitoring wells and one additional production well is under construction.
- County Parks has 2 wells. One is in Maxwell Park and the other, Ernie Smith Park.
- California Department of Fish & Game wells.

Geographic Areas Where More Monitoring is Needed

The group refined areas in need of monitoring:

- Northwest of Glen Ellen
- Kenwood: Lawndale, Adobe Canyon, Warm Springs
- South part of Valley (in particular, south of Napa Road)
- Hills between Dunbar south to Madrone with east and west locations
- Some of the “Foothills” areas

Discussion on Kenwood

- Certain areas have high water levels, which is consistent with the thinking that this is a likely recharge area.
- Kenwood Water Company (Jim Downey is lead) draws from the aqueduct and has two wells.
- Kunde might have data to share.

Discussion on Hills between Dunbar south to Madrone

This area is largely bedrock and granite, which is difficult to map because water tends to go into the holes or fractures in the rock. Water in bedrock does not contribute to the overall understanding of water in the alluvium (in which groundwater flows more freely). The influence of bedrock areas to the alluvium is unclear. The Panel will have to determine how important understanding this area is.

Discussion on Carriger Road

The group noted that the Carriger Road alluvial fan is an area of concern and also an interesting area to study. Carriger Creek is considered a sub-watershed and a potential opportunity for recharge. The large number of wells being monitored around Carriger Road is intentional because the area was identified previously as a concern.

The Panel may want to consider a special study in the Carriger area.

Water Quality

Analyses should consider temperature and bicarbonate

Discussion on Water Quality Standards

The work group discussed potential contaminants in water that the Title 22 state standards do not examine. An example is biphenyl. Those who collect data are meeting state standards, which they feel are more than adequate to address quality concerns. Others expressed concern that the Panel might not want to limit itself to state mandates if other potential contaminants might raise future concern.

A GAMA water quality analysis, which is quite detailed, is currently underway. The GAMA study should be able to offer some initial insights into what other trace elements may be of concern in the Sonoma Valley. Given concerns about water quality, Tim Parker will articulate the objectives for the water quality studies, identified thus far as safety for human consumption, safety for irrigation, and as a test for hypotheses on the age of water. Other objectives may be identified. The Panel, or work group as appropriate, will look at these objectives and the GAMA study analysis to determine the appropriate next steps.

Demand and Use

The monitoring work group, discussed, but did not resolve how or if the monitoring program should monitor water demand or use? This is a controversial issue and should be linked to the basin management goals and objectives. This initially emerged out of an expressed concern that some may be extracting surface water from Sonoma Creek without a permit. Others suggested that an analysis of the permits might provide some insights. Another suggestion was to analyze this issue using the existing and planned stream gage which would initially site if a problem with flow exists and then thinking about how to approach the subject.

Other Notes

- Members would like to know from which aquifer the water is coming.
- Ed Nelson noted a drop in water levels in the Agua Caliente area that might be helpful to explore.

Participants

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